

Southeast News

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MRS. JEAN YOUNG

Young to address Women's Conference

A Spring Retreat for Southeast Conference Women is planned for April 11-13, 1980 at Camp Calvin, Hampton, GA (about 25 miles south of Atlanta). An opportunity for inspiration, information, workshops, fun and fellowship is offered to all those who are able to attend.

The retreat will begin on Friday evening and will conclude on Sunday, April 13 after lunch.

The Keynote Speaker at the evening program on Saturday will be Mrs. Jean Young, wife of former Ambassador Andrew Young. Mrs. Young is no stranger to the Southeast Conference. Officially related through her husband, who is an ordained UCC minister holding his standing in the Southeast Conference, the Youngs were involved in a variety of ministries in this region prior to their entrance into the political world.

The cost for the Retreat will be \$35.00 which includes registration, meals and lodging. Participants must bring their own bedding and towels.

For more information and registration forms, please contact the Southeast Conference Office. Deadline for registration is March 15, 1980.

This promises to be a rewarding event. Why not plan to attend?

Conference Minister Search Committee Makes Progress

By December 15, 1979, the deadline for accepting applications and recommendations for the position of Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference, the Search Committee had received a total of 43 names. Of these, 31 responded positively. Profiles were prayerfully considered and that list has been narrowed down to 8. The Committee hopes to be able to make its recommendation for a new Conference Minister to the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference when it meets in March.

Peggy Hall, Chairwoman

Schaeffer Installed at Belvidere UCC

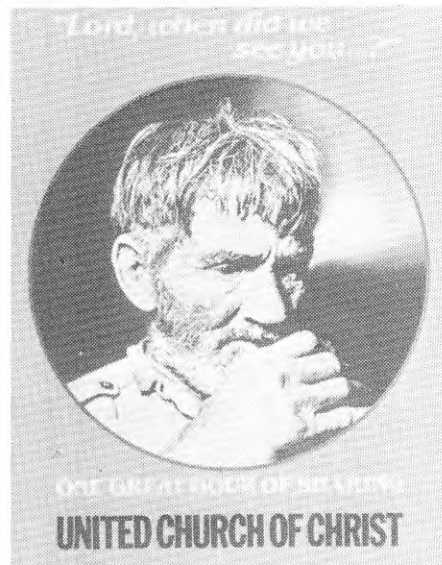
Rev. John F. Schaeffer, Jr. was installed by the Alabama-Tennessee Association as pastor and teacher of First United Church of Christ in Belvidere, Tennessee on Sunday, January 27, 1980.

Rev. Schaeffer came to Belvidere from Good Shepherd UCC in Reading, PA where he had served as pastor from 1971-79.

A graduate of Dartmouth College under-graduate and engineering programs, Rev. Schaeffer was a 1952 graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. From 1953 through 1971, when he retired as a Commander, Rev. Schaeffer served in the Chaplain's Corp, U.S. Navy. Prior to his military service, he was ordained in the Reading Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Participating in the Service of Installation were Revs. George Fidler, Cullman, David Beebe, Chattanooga, Wilson Welch, Lelan McReynolds and Stephen Gray, Nashville and Eugene Keen, Huntsville. Conference Minister W.J. Andes preached the installation sermon.

Rev. Schaeffer is joined by his wife Audrey and his daughters Ginny Lee and Wendy.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering To Be Held

March 16th, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, is the day when most congregations of the United Church of Christ will observe One Great Hour of Sharing. In addition to providing funds for agricultural development, social services, and refugee work all around the world, the OGHHS all-church offering also provides the funds with which the United Church Board for World Ministries responds to major disasters and emergency appeals.

One cannot predict just where in the world these disasters will occur, but one can with certainty say that they will occur! In 1978, a typical year, the list included: Floods in Bangladesh, earthquake and floods in Belize and Honduras, floods in Costa Rica, earthquake in Greece, displaced persons in the Horn of Africa, cyclone in India, floods in India, refugees in Indochina, food shortage in Jamaica, civil strife in Lebanon, floods in Mozambique, food shortage in Nicaragua, civil disorders in Nicaragua, floods in Pakistan, drought in the Sahel, civil strife in South Africa, displaced persons in Southern Lebanon, refugees and a cyclone in Sri Lanka, floods in Sudan, floods in Thailand, reconstruction in Vietnam, civil strife in Zaire, and medical supplies in

[Continued on Page 2]

Annual Meeting Official Call

The 1980 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc. will be held Friday, June 6, through Sunday noon, June 8, 1980, at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. on June 6th and conclude with the 11 a.m. worship service on the 8th.

Henry W. Tuttle, Moderator

Gifts to OCWM Increase in 1979

The churches of the Southeast Conference gave \$95,077 to Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission in 1979, an increase of \$7,700 over 1978 giving.

Of the total, \$27,572 was sent to the UCC Treasurer in New York for our National OCWM giving in 1979, compared to \$23,834 in 1978.

Because expenses have increased in a variety of ways, the 1980 proposed budget for the Southeast Conference calls for \$110,000 OCWM giving from the churches, with \$30,000 of that amount going to the national treasury in 1980.

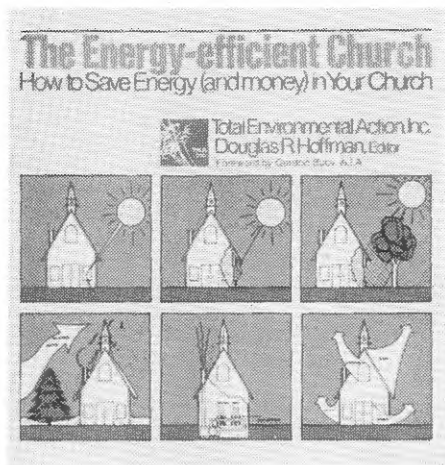
Our thanks are extended to the ministers and churches for their loyal and generous support. The present year of 1980 beckons to us to do even better.

New Church Starts News

Button Gwinnett UCC, a new church start in Lilburn, GA, reports that at their first Annual Meeting held on January 27, 1980 the congregation voted to begin a complete building program study to be completed by November 1, 1980! In addition to electing 36 persons to serve the congregation as officers, board and committee members, the church has also officially begun a Women's Association that will be meeting on a monthly basis. Rev. George Bennett is the pastor.

Pilgrimage UCC, the most recent new church start in Marietta, GA, recently completed a canvass of some 200 homes. At the same time, pastor Rev. Ira Chase reports that the church's previous meeting place — a pizza parlor — was no longer available. As a result, the church is presently meeting at a bowling alley which boasts an ample conference room and beautiful nursery. But the new worship area has resulted in the following bit of poetry from some of Pilgrimage's members:

I know a minister named Chase
Who preaches in a very strange place.
When the kids start bowling,
And the pins start falling,
He concludes at a very fast pace!



HOW TO SAVE IN YOUR CHURCH

If you have complained about the high cost of heating your church building in winter and/or cooling it in summer, you must read *The Energy-efficient Church* which was prepared under the supervision of the National Division of the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, and was published by the UCBWM-related Pilgrim Press.

Using statistics gathered by the Federal Energy Administration, the book makes a strong case for the conservation of energy and notes that churches have several unique opportunities for such conservation. First, church buildings are subject to occasional use. Second, churches can mobilize volunteer labor to implement energy-saving measures. Third, churches have an extended time perspective and are used to thinking of the future. Fourth, churches can usually borrow money for energy conservation measures at favorable interest rates. And finally, churches recognize their responsibility for leadership in matters of community importance.

In addition to evaluating each strategy in detail and noting its cost-effectiveness under varying circumstances, the authors have provided in an appendix detailed formulas to help you to study your own situation. Everything you will need to study your own church is in this slender volume. Order the *Energy-efficient Church* from your local bookstore or from the Pilgrim Press, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010. The cost is \$4.95. Order a copy now!

Progress Noted In Kampuchea

Mr. George A. Percival, Pleasant Hill, TN, who is a member of the Board of Directors, UCBWM and a member of the World Services Strategy Committee, sends us this report about the situation in Kampuchea:

Much has been said and written of the appalling conditions in Kampuchea (Cambodia) and we get to the point of wondering what we can do as Christian individuals. Many of our members don't realize that the official UCC arm in this area is Church World Service. Through C.W.S. many denominations can work together for a common purpose and eliminate overlapping expenses. Church World Service has established a \$5 million Cambodian Relief Appeal. Here is a concrete program and action in which we can all participate.

Dr. Kirk Alliman, C.W.S. Southern Asia Director and a UCC member, recently visited Cambodia. Outside of Phnom Penh he observed that gardens have been planted, and the rice crop, even though it is only a small portion of what is needed, is prospering. This is not to imply that the emergency is over; it simply gives testimony to the resilience of the spirit of the people of the country.

Nevertheless, much help is still needed in that part of the world. Your World Service Strategy Committee of the UCBWM is very aware of the needs. At the November, 1979 meeting in Denver the General Secretary was empowered to allocate up to \$50,000 from the "Reserve for Unforeseen Emergencies" as a supplement to the directed gifts for that purpose.

It was also voted that the UCBWM continue to work with the World Council of Churches, the Christian Council of Asia and Church World Service to determine the most effective way to get relief to the Cambodian people.

In the meantime donations may be directed to your local church designated for the Cambodian Emergency Appeal. It will then be sent through denominational channels for this cooperative relief effort.

Thank you for sharing!

[Continued from Page 1]

Zambia.

Whenever disaster strikes, our United Church Board for World Ministries is able to make an immediate response because of your generosity in giving to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing all-church offering.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 8-9 - Search Committee, Holiday Inn - Atlanta Airport
- Feb. 11-15 - UCC Executive and Council of Conference Executives, Corpus Christi, TX
- Feb. 16 - E. AL-W. GA Laymen's Fellowship meeting, Southern Union College, Wadley, AL, Ladies Night.
- Feb. 20 - Ash Wednesday and beginning of Lent
- Feb. 22-23 - Search Committee, Holiday Inn - Atlanta Airport
- Feb. 29-March 2 - Ala-Tenn Youth Pop-in, Chattanooga Pilgrim UCC
- March 3-4 - Leonard Clough, Director of Planned Giving, UCBWM, at Uplands and Pleasant Hill Community Church
- March 6-8 - John Potts, Office of Church Building, UCBHM, at Cullman, Huntsville and Nashville churches
- March 16 - OGHS all-church offering
- March 18-20 - Minister's Retreat, Mont-eagle, TN
- March 21-23 - Youth Core, Nashville, TN
- March 26-29 - Race Relations Institute, Fisk University, Nashville, TN
- March 28-30 - Training Event for ministers, North Alabama
- April 3 - Maundy Thursday
- April 4 - Good Friday
- April 6 - Easter
- April 11-13 - Women's Leadership Retreat, Camp Calvin, near Atlanta
- April 25-27 - Southern Alabama Area Youth Camp, Camp Ada, between Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach
- April 27 - Uplands Day
- June 6-8 - Southeast Conference Annual Meeting, Fisk University, Nashville, TN

A Good Christian

I spent some time today with a fellow I admire very much. He doesn't drink alcoholic beverages, nor use tobacco in any form. I never heard him gossip or tell a lie. He doesn't cheat anyone in a business deal or practice any dishonesty. I can't recall ever hearing him curse or use profanity or dirty language."

By the standards of some people we could call him "a good Christian." But I think you ought to know that I have been describing my dog!

The point I am making is that being "a good Christian" involves a lot more than having a list of things you don't do. A good Christian is active in doing things for Christ. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." (Ephesians 2:10)

St. John's UCC Bulletin



Wharton Nursing Home of Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee

Uplands Sunday Scheduled

The Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference which met last June in Talladega, AL, unanimously approved and urged the churches of our Conference to support the 2nd annual Uplands Sunday in 1980. While no specific date was set, most felt the best time to be Sunday, April 27.

Uplands, located mid-way between Nashville and Knoxville on the Cumberland Plateau, has a 58 year history of service. Started in 1922 as a hospital and clinic for the "mountain people," Uplands has evolved into a moderately-priced UCC Retirement Center and Nursing Home, open to all without regard to race, color or creed. The Retirement Center is virtually self-sufficient, but the Nursing Home must depend on the unselfish giving of many to continue its program and facilities. Most patients are area residents who lack the financial means to care for themselves due to low income during their working years, prolonged illness, or both.

Volunteers help from the Retirement Center is of great assistance, but financial assistance from many churches and individuals is needed to continue this Christian ministry.

Please keep April 27 in mind and encourage your Pastor, Missions Committee, Trustees, and your Congregation to participate in this special offering for Uplands.

Further information concerning the observance and special offering is being forwarded to churches by George Percival, Director of Development at Uplands.

Refugee Family Welcomed

The Christmas Season was given a very special meaning for the members of Knoxville, TN, Church of the Savior UCC with the arrival of the refugee family they are sponsoring: Mr. Dan Hyuhn and his daughter and three sons. Refugees from Vietnam, Mr. Hyuhn had to leave behind his wife and three younger children. His oldest son is in prison in Vietnam.

The church's Refugee Task Force helped the Hyuhns get settled in short order. An apartment was located. A job with a clothier was secured for Mr. Hyuhn who had been a tailor for fifteen years. The children were entered into the public school system and Mr. Hyuhn and his daughter began evening English classes.

In addition, the Hyuhns and a second Vietnamese family have chosen to attend Church of the Savior each week, creating a unique language problem! In response, members of the church have set up a special Church School class and have ordered Vietnamese Bibles from the American Bible Society in order that they might better understand and participate in each Sunday's service of worship.

With many more refugee families expected to arrive in the southeastern part of the country over the next two years, Church of the Savior looks forward to possible new support of the refugee need.

Has your church considered what it can do to help in the current refugee problem? Write to UCBWM, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027 for the refugee agency nearest you.

Job Opportunities Available

The United Church Board for World Ministries has more than a score of overseas job openings, ranging from headmastership in Botswana to a farm manager in Zambia. Other openings are in Turkey, France, India, Italy and Taiwan. Write Overseas Personnel Office, UCBWM, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027.

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries frequently has one- or two-year openings in the United States for volunteers of all ages. These may be at childrens' homes, homes for the aged, urban centers, or others. Write Mr. Carl Bade, Volunteer Service - UCBHM, Room 1782, 132 West 31st Street, New York, N.Y. 10001.



Officers of Langdale Church
burning the Fellowship Hall mortgage

ALA-TENN MINISTERS'

A continuing education retreat for the ministers of the Alabama-Tennessee Association will be held March 18-20, 1980 at the DuBose Conference Center, Monteagle, Tennessee.

Title for the retreat is "For Value Received," an exploration into how a minister's family can live and reach its goals — economic and otherwise — in this day and time. Resource leader will be Rev. Paul Baumer, Minister for Stewardship Development of the Ohio Conference.

Due to a special grant made possible by the Oak Grove Foundation, cost will be only \$16.25 for the first 24 people registering and \$32.25 per person thereafter.

Registration materials are being forwarded to all Ala-Tenn Association ministers.

Camps In One

An Annual Spring Mini-Camp, sponsored by the Southern Alabama Area UCC, will offer three camps in one Friday through Sunday noon, April 25-27 at Camp Ada, across the bay from Pensacola, Florida.

Cost for the camp will be \$15.00 per person. The camping experience will be divided into three parts: one program for grades 4-6, a second program for grades 7-9 and a third program for grades 10 through college.

A non-refundable \$5.00 advance registration is necessary with the balance of \$10.00 to be paid upon arrival at the camp. Checks should be made payable to: Southern Alabama Area UCC and forwarded in care of P.O. Box 773, Phenix City, AL 36867.

Langdale Church Burns Mortgage

On December 16, 1979 the officers and members of Langdale Congregational-Christian Church, UCC in Langdale, AL, observed a joyous celebration by burning the mortgage on their church's Fellowship Hall which was constructed in 1971. What made the occasion doubly festive is that the mortgage was paid off some seven years ahead of schedule!

Concerning the occasion, Rev. John Schofield, pastor of the church writes: "Back in September, 1971 we borrowed \$30,000 at 7½%, to be paid back in monthly payments of \$278.20 until August, 1986. The full interest would have been \$20,076.

"Good Christian stewardship made us pay our tithes and give our offerings and all work together to pay off the debt.

"With good leadership by our Board of Finance, with cooperation by our people, and with God's good help, the Fellowship Hall is now free of debt . . . and our Missionary and other offerings paid in full."

Officers participating in the mortgage burning (pictured above, l-r) are Mrs. Billy Joyce Kilgore and husband, Winfred, Co-Treasurers; Rev. John Schofield, Pastor; Mr. Ellsworth Holmes, Chairman of Trustees; Mr. Alton Davis, Moderator; and Mr. O'Neal Mason, Chairman of Finances.

CURT'S NUGGETS

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee:

—More than spare time and small change is required if the Christian religion is to mean anything to us or to the world.

Youth Core Underway

Some 30 young people and advisors from churches all across the Southeast Conference gathered January 25-27, 1980 at Camp Calvin, south of Atlanta, GA, for the first of two Southeast Conference Youth Core Training Events prior to the 1980 Conference Annual Meeting.

Underway for three years, Youth Core is composed of specially nominated youth and adults who are trained in leadership skills in order that youth might be visible in leadership roles within the Conference and among their peers.

Training leadership for this year's Youth Core has been given through the UCBHM in the person of Mike Small. Under the guidance of Mrs. Trudie Sanford, Youth Core Coordinator for this year is Debbie Schafer, a sophomore at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

The Core will hold its next training meeting at First E&R, UCC in Nashville, TN March 21-23 in order to prepare for leadership of youth events to be held during the Annual Meeting of the Conference June 6-8 at Fisk University, also in Nashville.

ALA-TENN YOUTH PLAN POP-IN

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, Chattanooga, TN, will hold a Pop-In sponsored by the Alabama-Tennessee Association, on Friday through Sunday, February 29 to March 2, 1980.

Invited are all Association youth grades 7-12 and adult advisors. Cost will be \$11.00 per person made payable to Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Registration material has been forwarded to Association churches.

Wonderous Sight

As I entered the beauty parlor, a girl about my own age came out. Though I had never met her, I had often watched with admiration and pity as she walked about town with her Seeing Eye Dog. Today she looked beautiful and I said so to the hairdresser.

She replied, "She told me she had a very special engagement this evening and wanted to look as well as possible. She had everything — new hairdo, facial and so on. The girls really did their best for her."

A few hours later, I was dining at a restaurant and saw this blind girl at a nearby table. She looked radiant. Opposite her was a handsome young man. He wore dark glasses and under the table lay two Seeing Eye Dogs.

— Mrs. John Klein,
as printed in the Lanett UCC
Newsletter

THE LONELY DIME

The dime was all alone, carefully placed in the center of the offering plate that was presented to the Elder presiding last Sunday.

I immediately thought of the widow, observed by Jesus, who "put in more than all of them." Then I realized we had not replayed the New Testament. When I saw the laughter in the Junior Deacon's eye and noted that his father was the Elder in charge, I discovered what was going on! But it gave me quite a start.

Suppose that dime was all the offering we had received that day?

It would mean that some great disaster had attacked our group and wiped out our ability to share. Should that happen we would experience a new dimension to Christian Fellowship. We would alert the office of Church World Service and tell them of our need for food, blankets and temporary shelter. We would see for ourselves that Christian fellowship is not only pulpit talk but also proteins, water, and wool.

I hope it never happens, but being on the receiving end of Christian stewardship would give us a new viewpoint.

The question that remains is this: "Were we on the receiving end of Christian stewardship, would we be content to receive in the same measure that we have been giving?"

— Rev. Robert Boyte
Central Woodward Christian Church
(Detroit)

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BLACKWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

AROUND THE CONFERENCE Blackwood Congregational Christian Church

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the Southern Alabama-Northwest Florida Association is Blackwood Congregational Christian Church, located in Headland, AL.

Organized in 1894 during which time many Congregational Methodist churches were being re-organized into Congregational churches, the charter members and others withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal, South church to organize Blackwood Congregational Church.

After its original building burned, the congregation moved the church in 1910 about two miles to its present location. In 1936 a six-room parsonage was built, which has since been further enlarged and modernized. In 1941 fire once again struck and destroyed the church building. One year later the present structure was completed. Since that time, additional church school rooms, rest rooms and other refurbishing and modernization have been added.

Long a supporter of youth activities, the church took active leadership in Sealacoon

camps under the direction of Miss Margaret Davison, and other training programs.

Supporting church school, Vacation Bible School and activities of Women of the Church, Blackwood Church is also proud of the support its 98 members have and intend to continue providing for benevolence giving.

Since 1977 the church's pastor has been the Rev. Eugene Henderson.

UCC College Heritage Day

Under the sponsorship of the Council on Higher Education "UCC College Heritage Day" will be observed throughout the denomination on Sunday, April 27, 1980.

The purpose of "UCC College Heritage Day" is not to secure funds (no special offering is proposed); rather, the purpose is to increase awareness of the United Church's mission in higher education.

Three UCC church related colleges are located within the Southeast Conference and are members of the Council on Higher Education. Fisk University in Nashville, TN; Talladega College in Talladega, AL; and Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, MS. UCC church related colleges in the Southern Conference are Elon and Catawba Colleges.

Mrs. Andes Dies

Mrs. Minnie B Andes, mother of Conference Minister William J. Andes, died November 27, 1979 at her home near Harrisonburg, Virginia after an illness of 14 months. Mrs. Andes was 91 years of age.

Mrs. Andes studied music at Shenandoah Conservatory of Music and had taught piano. She was a member of Antioch United Church of Christ.

Married in 1912 to the Rev. Alfred W. Andes, a minister of the Congregational-Christian Churches in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, she often worked with her husband as music and special program director.

After her husband's death in 1936, Mrs. Andes assisted her sons in pastorates in Rockingham and Page Counties, Virginia, and in North Carolina.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Robert Harding of Essex Junction, VT; three sons, Dr. William J. Andes of Atlanta, Dr. Raymond N. Andes of Bridgewater, VA, and the Rev. Mark W. Andes of Kannapolis, N.C.; a sister, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Jewish - Christian Worship Guides Available

Recognizing that Christians and Jews do, on occasion, worship together, the Office of Christian-Jewish Relations of the National Council of Churches and the Department of Interreligious Affairs of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations have just released a new and unprecedented set of guidelines for Christian-Jewish worship services.

The guidelines range from specific admonitions against using certain prayers to general recommendations urging that the integrity and theological distinctions of each faith be retained in joint services. The guidelines are an outgrowth of a symposium sponsored earlier this year by the two cooperating groups.

The document provides the basis for further study and is not intended as a policy statement nor as an official statement of attitude or policy of the National Council of Churches.

You may request a single copy of the new guidelines, free, from the Department of Interreligious Affairs, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021.

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

Circular Congregational Church, Charleston, S.C., has the unique pleasure of preparing for its Tricentennial Celebration to be observed in 1981. The oldest Southeast Conference church, Circular Church was founded in 1681.

A new member of Pleasant Hill, TN, Community Church is Mrs. Erma DeBoer. Mrs. DeBoer's son, John, is a UCC minister who served for a number of years with UCBHM and is now with JSAC.

Our condolences are extended to Rev. and Mrs. John Schaeffer, Belvidere, TN, at the death of Mrs. Schaeffer's sister, Doris Hirsch, on January 23, 1980. Services were held in Enterprise, Alabama.

Following worship on January 20, the congregation of Huntsville, AL, UCC conducted a meeting during which they celebrated several significant achievements: adoption of a \$41,750 1980 budget and setting goals to — continue efforts to grow, pay off the building debt over the next four to five years, and make definite plans to build a church sanctuary in 1985.

What does Habitat for Humanity in Morgan and Scott Counties, TN, specifically need for its housing program? Dollars for: Door and frame, \$40; Window, \$65; Sheet rock for a room, \$85; Roof, \$600; 2x4 for one room, \$100; Tools (hand and power). Please send contributions to: Scott-Morgan Habitat, P.O. Box 14, Robbins, TN 37852.

Due to Dr. Carleton's illness, Dr. Alford Carleton and his wife, Mary, have moved from Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN, to Columbus, OH, to be near their daughter. The Carletons had lived at Uplands for a number of years.

Former NAACP Associate Director Kenyon C. Burke, an Episcopal layman, has been elected associate general secretary for church and society for the National Council of Churches. Burke brings a good deal of experience in social programming to his new position.

First Evangelical and Reformed UCC in Nashville, TN, will host the Touring Choir of Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS, on March 15 at 8:00 p.m. Tougaloo is an A.M.A. college related to the United Church of Christ.

Nashville's Opryland Hotel will host the Religious Communications Congress/1980 to be held May 12-16. This once-a-decade event will be attended by nearly 40 religious denominations and groups and will feature the latest in communications technology. Registration is open until April 20.

Churches interested in scheduling work camps at Uplands Retirement Center this summer are encouraged to do so by writing to Rev. Edward Dahmer, Executive Director, Uplands Retirement Center, P.O. Box 168, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578.

The members of Circular Congregational Church, Charleston, S.C. are participating in a home reading of the Gospel of John. Beginning on the first day of Epiphany and ending one week after Easter Sunday, small segments of the book are assigned each day to be read and thought about by each member of the congregation.

A one day "Youth Ministry Leadership Training Event" was held November 10, 1979 in Montgomery, AL. UCC youth participated in the planning of this event which was an outgrowth of the JED Training Event held in Columbia, TN in the spring of 1979.

BACK BAY MISSIONS SERVES

When Hurricane Frederic hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast on September 12, 1979 the Back Bay Mission, a UCC mission enterprise located in Biloxi, was prepared. Having "battened down" the property and the Family Health Center building, the staff weathered the storm in the Mission's sturdy cement block building, and awoke early the next morning to find a long line of people at the front door.

While dispensing food vouchers and other emergency relief to over 150 families, other members of the staff helped to organize relief services in the form of hot meals and the staffing of Red Cross medical centers.

While the mission itself sustained only minor damage, the Family Health Center was seriously damaged and an insurance settlement is anticipated.

Back Bay Mission is officially a part of the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ.